

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /162 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2995

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 778

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN UNGA EGEN CB

SUBJ: UNGA SPECIAL SESSION: KHMER CREDENTIALS

REF: PHNOM PENH 3291

1. ALTHOUGH REFTEL INDICATES WE AND GKR ARE IN AGREEMENT ABOUT HANDLING OF SPECIAL SESSION PROBLEM, WE OFFER FOLLOWING FOR CLARIFICATION.

2. PFIME MOVERS OF SPECIAL SESSION ARE FAR FROM COMPLETING CONSULTATIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF SESSION. WE KNOW THAT THERE EXISTS STRONG SENTIMENT FOR DEVOTING SESSION EXCLUSIVELY TO SUBSTANCE. WE HAVE SOME HOPE--BUT CERTAINLY NOT YET CONFIDENCE--THAT SCENARIO FINALLY WORKED OUT WILL EXCLUDE EX-TRANEOUS PROCEDURAL ISSUES INCLUDING CREDENTIALS.

3. IT IS CLEAR TO US THAT PREMATURE ACCREDITING OF NEW GKR NAMES (IN EFFECT RECORDING CHANGES FROM 28TH GA DELEGATION) WOULD THREATEN TO PROVOKE PRO-GRUNK SUPPORTERS INTO MOUNTING A CHALLENGE WHICH THEY THEMSELVES MAY PREFER TO FINESSE IF THEY ARE PERMITTED. IF CONCERNED DELEGATIONS AND REGIONAL AND POLITICAL GROUPS WORK OUT PACKAGE THAT WOULD AVOID CREDENTIALS ISSUE, THEN GKR'S ACCREDITING OF DELEGATION, IF DONE AT APPROPRIATE STAGE, MIGHT BE NO
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PROBLEM. THIS STAGE, HOWEVER, IS LONG WAY OFF AND MAY

NOT IN FACT BE REACHED UNTIL SESSION OPENS.

4. ENOUGH OTHER DELEGATIONS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY PLAN TO DESIGNATE DEPUTY MINISTERS OR PERMREPS TO HEAD DELEGATIONS THAT IT WOULD SEEM UNLIKELY KHMER WOULD BE ALONE IN NOT HAVING CABINET MINISTER PRESENT. IT MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE ADVISABLE TO NAME AMB VUTTHI TO BE DELEGATION HEAD. ADDITIONAL DELEGATION ADVISERS SUCH AS ECONOMIC SPECIALISTS ARE LESSER QUESTION THAT, IN ANY EVENT, COULD BE RESOLVED BY ACCREDITATION AT LAST MINUTE OR BY SUBMISSION OF AMENDED DELEGATION LIST.

5. WE CERTAINLY AGREE THAT GKR PREPARATIONS FOR SPECIAL SESSION, AS REFTEL PUTS IT, SHOULD BE "QUIET." WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT WE BELIEVE GKR SHOULD DELAY DECISION ABOUT DELEGATION AND ANY ANNOUNCEMENT OR NEW ACCREDITATION UNTIL SITUATION CRYSTALLIZES HERE. WE STRONGLY HOPE THAT EMBASSY WILL DO WHAT IT CAN TO ENSURE THAT NO FINAL DECISION OR ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE WITHOUT FULL CONSULTATION WITH GKR MISSION HERE.

6. KHMER CHARGE MADAME PENG MARCH 6 TOLD US, IN AGREEING WITH OUR ASSESSMENT, THAT JAPANESE AMB SAITO HAS GIVEN HER SUBSTANTIALLY SAME ADVICE. MADAME PENG, UNFORTUNATELY, FEELS UNDER PARTICULAR PRESSURE BECAUSE PHNOM PENH IS PRESSING FOR HER RECOMMENDATION NOW AS TO WHETHER KEUKY LIM SHOULD PLAN TO GO AHEAD WITH GOOD WILL TRIP OR SHOULD PLAN TO COME TO NEW YORK. SHE WILL CONTINUE, NEVERTHELESS, TO ADVISE GKR TO PUT OFF FINAL DECISION REGARDING SPECIAL SESSION.
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